

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

(Written by J. S. Hubbard, Executive Secretary of the Missouri Press Association.)

Jefferson City, Mo., Nov. 2.—Agreement was reached in the committee of the whole Wednesday evening on amendments to the initiative and referendum after several days of exhaustive discussion. Changes made from the present constitution are noted briefly as follows:

Percentage of signers required for referring an act of the general assembly raised from 5 to 12 per cent.

Leaving the percentage for initiating laws at the present 8 per cent, but increasing to 12 per cent for initiative petitions to amend the constitution.

Providing that referred laws shall be submitted to the voters in the following language: "Shall the act of the general assembly be rejected?"

Providing that laws initiated by the people shall be subject to amendment or repeal the same as laws passed by the general assembly.

Providing that all referred laws shall be voted on only at general elections.

Basing the percentage required on the whole number of votes cast for governor at the next preceding election in each of at least two-thirds of the congressional districts, instead of on the vote for justice of the supreme court.

Requiring that petitions for initiative or referendum be left with some official authorized to take acknowledgments of deeds, and providing that the signer shall not be required to pay a fee.

Providing that voters not able to write their names shall affix their mark and that their names be written for them and witnessed by two witnesses, and that in districts requiring registration all signers of petitions shall be registered voters.

The final agreement was reached by a vote of 31 to 20. The proposition is subject to further amendment in the convention before going to the Committee on Phraseology and Arrangement, after which there will be two opportunities to change before the final vote.

No question that has been before the convention for discussion has provoked so much oratory as the initiative and referendum. More than half the members present during the days of general debate have expressed themselves on the question, which was generally considered the liveliest issue before the people today.

A few have taken the extreme view that the initiative and referendum should be wiped out entirely, while the other extreme would make but slight modification of the present law.

The majority report of the committee made three definite changes in the present act. The percentage of signatures required for initiating a law was changed from 8 to 5 per cent and the percentage for referring a law from 5 to 8 per cent of the whole vote cast for governor in the next preceding election in at least two thirds of the congressional districts of the state. Another change suggested, in the form of a safeguard, required that every signer in a district where registration was the law be registered. The third requirement related to the signatures of voters who could not write their names but made their mark. This was the same provision as agreed to in the amended report.

The minority report raised the percentage to 10 per cent in each case and would require all signers to go to the county clerk's office or to the office of the election commissioners in cities and sign their names in the presence of an official who should satisfy himself as to their qualifications. Persons making their mark would be required to have the clerk, deputy or election commissioner sign their names and addresses for them.

The members speaking on the question were united in one particular and that was that there should be some change from the present loose method of applying the law. It was charged among other things:

That names of dead men appeared on petitions circulated in St. Louis, asking to refer certain laws, and that the circulators, who were paid ten cents per name, in many cases misrepresented the purpose of the law as it was passed by the general assembly.

That it denied to the people a republican or representative form of government which was guaranteed to them in the constitution of the United States and of the State of Missouri as at first enacted.

That under the present law it was possible for about 3 per cent of the voters to get a law referred that was not satisfactory to the other 97 per cent.

That it required a majority vote of the general assembly to pass a law that had been thoroughly studied in committee and on the floor and read three times and then signed by the governor, but that the work could be undone by a minority of the voters, the majority of whom knew nothing about the law they were referring or voting on.

On the other hand the friends of the law contended that it was just as bad to pass the minority report as to wipe out the law altogether, as it would have the same effect. It was declared that farmers and laboring people could not, without great difficulty and expense, get to the county seat to sign petitions.

It was urged that while there had been abuses in the administration of the law, it was better to safeguard it than to wipe it out. It was pointed out that in 1914, six years after the adoption of the initiative and referendum, the people on a proposal to amend it had rejected the proposal by a majority six times as great as that by which they had passed it at first.

It was further urged that the people had never relinquished the right to decide for themselves how they should be governed and that they should never be denied this right. The initiative and referendum, the friends of the law contended, was a check on the legislative branch of the government

Apportionment of School Funds of St. Francois County for 1922

School District		SCHOOL FUNDS APPORTIONED										RATE PER CENT			Valuation of			ENUMERATION OF CHILDREN			Name of District Clerk and Address						
Range	Township	Name	Valuation of Real Estate	Valuation of Personal Property	Total Valuation	Teachers	Sinking	Interest	Building	Total Levy	Amount School Tax Levied	State	County	Township	R. R. & Tel. Tax	Teachers and	Total	Apporportioned	No. of Teachers Employed	Attendance		Average Daily	White	Colored	Male	Female	Grand Total
38	1	5 Rongvie	24220	4890	29110	45	20			.65	180.22	71.05	4.70	9.82	37.22	125.75	1	1686	12	1	1686	12	12	12	11	11	33
38	2	5 Valles Mines	12700	3700	16400	40	25			.65	106.60	24.61	7.56	15.78	59.87	390.82	1	37	31	1	37	31	31	21	21	21	37
38	3	4 Blackwell	72580	24835	97415	40	10			.50	487.08	124.7	12.47	33.60	97.71	386.71	1	6975	43	1	6975	43	43	24	24	24	61
38	4	4 Primrose	93640	10030	103670	40	10			.50	622.02	168.78	10.63	7.20	84.15	298.76	1	4014	25	1	4014	25	25	27	27	27	52
38	5	4 Bismarck	330070	136385	466455	50	25			1.25	5830.69	2375.92	72.18	71.38	572.24	3091.72	9	50728	281	9	50728	281	281	168	168	168	323
38	6	5 Coonville	59970	9830	69800	45	20			1.0	525.50	163.26	8.18	17.06	64.73	253.28	1	3883	24	1	3883	24	24	16	16	16	40
38	7	4-5 Elvins	4010325	115975	4126300	40	15			1.30	53641.60	6089.58	208.59	34.65	1650.63	7983.45	24	181968	733	24	181968	733	501	501	501	501	1020
38	8	5 Mostellar	100550	169650	270200	40	25			.65	448.69	304.32	6.13	12.80	48.54	371.79	1	2589	21	1	2589	21	20	20	20	20	30
38	9	6 French Village	32760	7970	33550	50	15			.55	329.75	226.85	8.99	27.72	71.20	334.76	1	2882	18	1	2882	18	10	10	10	10	44
38	10	6-7 Crows	32750	6600	39350	40	15			.55	216.43	76.11	3.27	10.08	25.79	115.25	1	1757	13	1	1757	13	10	6	6	6	16
38	11	6-4 Bonne Terre	3336625	864390	4201315	85	15			1.20	56415.77	7714.02	291.82	84.53	2900.27	10399.64	6	162923	857	6	162923	857	714	683	19	11	1427
38	12	6-3 Sink Hole	33260	11970	45230	40	25			.65	293.94	138.30	6.95		82.53	796.36	1	5273	43	1	5273	43	26	25	25	25	51
38	13	6-6 Scott	35000	4660	39660	50	15			.60	237.96	171.79	7.36		58.25	200.26	1	3035	18	1	3035	18	15	15	15	15	34
38	14	6-5 Patterson	61670	17890	79560	40	15			.65	516.95	171.79	7.36		58.25	200.26	1	3035	18	1	3035	18	15	15	15	15	34
38	15	6-4 Lambeth	89780	14780	104560	50	15			.75	814.28	177.07	6.54		51.78	236.24	1	4302	27	1	4302	27	15	17	17	17	32
38	16	3-4 Pleas, Mound	240910	4995	241405	50	15			.40	980.02	123.86	9.40		74.34	209.83	1	2321	15	1	2321	15	23	23	23	23	46
38	17	4 Germania	64540	11325	75865	50	15			.65	493.12	135.80	9.61		2.29	76.05	1	2240	16	1	2240	16	23	24	24	24	47
38	18	143850	2450	146300	146750	35	05			1.20	585.20	126.79	3.68		8.8	160.38	1	2640	16	1	2640	16	8	10	10	10	18
38	19	5 Hunt	77000	38605	616605	80	20			1.20	7387.26	1443.77	38.03	16.78	300.99	1759.57	4	25564	142	4	25564	142	99	87	87	87	186
38	20	5 Big Run Mills	38330	3965	41395	50	15			.50	372.56	79.69	2.65		3.36	103.74	1	1880	11	1	1880	11	6	6	6	6	13
38	21	5 Cedar Falls	82490	13735	96225	25	25			.50	491.13	238.82	14.72		1.89	372.94	1	6490	41	1	6490	41	31	31	31	31	72
38	22	5-6 Farmington	1395665	893825	2289490	50	50			1.15	26315.34	5695.17	183.26	38.11	1326.88	7354.42	16	131301	741	16	131301	741	420	454	25	34	933
38	23	5-5 Benning	120200	11000	131200	25	16			.35	109.20	132.96	4.09		53	189.94	1	3539	22	1	3539	22	15	33	33	33	20
38	24	5-4 Barton	136310	10140	146450	25	40			.35	1246.53	231.78	13.33		42	121.37	8	92385	516	8	92385	516	31	387	387	387	75
38	25	5-3 Fisher	173710	3660	177370	30	10			1.70	28979.99	4293.82	142.53		3.86	8478.14	8	92385	516	8	92385	516	31	387	387	387	75
38	26	5-2 Franklney	331410	22200	353610	50	10			1.0	6541.60	176.77	16.77		3.37	601.39	5	49600	310	5	49600	310	185	187	187	187	372
38	27	4-5 Dalgrove	72750	21105	93855	70	30			1.0	703.99	146.52	9.40		4.22	133.25	16	14431	802	16	14431	802	488	546	546	546	1034
38	28	4-4 Waldo	102970	11360	114330	30	15			.75	5169.65	658.31	21.26		7.2	168.30	2	3319	20	2	3319	20	28	17	17	17	45
38	29	4-3 Gumbo	21450	3435	24885	40	25			.50	2703.51	384.05	16.56		5.2	622.24	2	14034	78	2	14034	78	62	62	62	62	104
38	30	5 Lehighboro	290820	6180	296980	15	05			.25	551.64	193.29	7.77		9.1	202.76	1	9763	61	1	9763	61	45	36	36	36	81
38	31	5 Oak Hill	138880	21820	160700	15	25			.25	669.41	193.29	9.81		9.7	272.76	1	2863	16	1	2863	16	17	21	21	21	38
38	32	5 Sugar Grove	12490	90300	102790	25	15			.40	351.20	193.26	12.97		10.80	216.52	1	2711	15	1	2711	15	25	25	25	25	48
38	33	5 Valle Forge	56640	16250	72890	40	15			.40	408.16	137.57	7.57		6.80	90.90	1	3254	30	1	3254	30	33	37	37	37	60
38	34	5 Clearview	74730	12920	87650	40	15			.55	502.04	137.57	7.57		10.08	59.87	1	2903	17	1	2903	17	13	17	17	17	31
38	35	6 Unity	61250	17805	79055	45	20			.65	513.92	130.46	6.74		8.99	219.59	1	3453	21	1	3453	21	24	19	19	19	33
38	36	6 Copenhagen	101840	13290	115130	20	05			.25	292.83	170.18	11.45		15.25	296.50	1	6995	43	1	6995	43	41	16	16	16	72
38	37	5 Delassus	68540	19915	88455	35	30			.65	574.96	253.51	14.72		6.52	116.51	1	391.25	1	1	391.25	1	130	12	12	12	23
38	38	5 Flannery	57900	7065	64965	25	05			.25	194.90	68.31	5.72		2.66	45.31	1	6995	43	1	6995	43	41	16	16	16	58
38	39	5 Stony Point	64410	8960	73370	15	10			.25	183.41	190.70	11.86		5.28	301.59	1	4836	30	1	4836	30	34	24	24	24	58
38	40	4 Dent	1000	265	1265	60				.60	7.59																
38	41	4 Iron Mountain	80860	28875	109735	25	15			.45	417.94	141.27	9.17		9.17	232.43	1	3137	19	1	3137	19	22	23	23	23	45
38	42	4 Hildebright	113700	8790	122490	40	15			.65	1041.17	269.78	20.90		9.17	166.68	4	7854	47	4	7854	47	58	48	48	48	103
38	43	5 Cartee	56830	25830	82660	10	05			.45	454.73	124.27	7.15		3.17	56.63	1	2553	15	1	2553	15	20	26	26	26	35
38	44	6 Independence	53570	17095	70665	20	10			.15	389.63	202.28	9.81		4.34	77.67	1	5234	32	1	5234	32	22	26	26	26	48
38	45	6 Fairview	44740	11025	55765	64	50			.65	302.98	48.68	4.70		6.27	37.21	1	814	5	1	814	5	11	12	12	12	23
38	46	6-5 Pessum Hollow	41640	5160	46800	65	15			.65	370.21	470	6.27		37.21	138.35	1	2240	13	1	2240	13	10	13	13	13	22
38	47	6-4 O'Bannon	10215	48715	49730	40	25			.65	384.20	61.83	4.49		5.98	107.90	1	1266	18	1	1266	18	14	11	11	11	32
38	48	4 King	40385	2090	42475	40	25			.65	384.20	61.83	4.49		5.98	107.90	1	1266	18	1	1266	18	14	11	11	11	32
38	49	7 Crows Roads	71840	6740	78580	40	10			.50	276.09	187.16	8.79		7.95	69.58	1	2585	24	1	2585	24	22	21	21	21	43
38	50	7-3 Rock Creek	49130	8740	57870	20	10			.50	392.90	162.16	9.51		7.95	69.58	1	2585	24	1	2585	24	22	21	21	21	43
38	51	8 Rockwood	788550	531075	811925	60	40			.50	403.33	87.67	1.63		11.30	85.76	3	5079	31	3	5079	31	25	28	28	28	53
38	52	8-1 Rockwood	788550	531075	811925	60	40			.50	403.33	87.67	1.63		11.30	85.76	3	5079	31	3	5079	31	25	28	28	28	53
38	53	8-2 Rockwood	788550	531075	811925	60	40			.50	403.33	87.67	1.63		11.30	85.76	3	5079	31	3	5079	31	25	28	28	28	53
38	54	8-3 Rockwood	788550	531075	811925	60	40			.50	403.33	87.67	1.63		11.30	85.76	3	5079	31	3	5079	31	25</				